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SENATE BILL 5979

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State of Washington

54th Legislature

1995 Regular Session

By Senator Hochstatter

Read first time 02/20/95. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to learning materials support; adding a new section  
2 to chapter 28A.195 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an  
3 effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature, in fulfilling its role as  
6 stated in the state Constitution, namely, that "It is the paramount  
7 duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all  
8 children residing within its borders...", finds that families with  
9 children enrolled in approved private schools are an integral part of  
10 fulfilling the state's educational mission.

11 The legislature recognizes that a significant percentage of  
12 students attend approved private schools. The parents of these  
13 children are subject to taxes and levies to fulfill the education  
14 provided through our common schools. In addition, these parents pay  
15 for student learning materials their child uses in the approved private  
16 school that would be free of additional charge in the common school.  
17 In acknowledgement of this additional burden and in recognizing the  
18 role of our state's approved private schools in helping to fulfill the  
19 constitutional mandate to provide education to our children, the

1 legislature recognizes the need for equalization. The sole purpose of  
2 this act is to assist children, not schools.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.195  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The state of Washington, through the office of the superintendent  
6 of public instruction or local school districts, shall reimburse  
7 parents or guardians of children enrolled in an approved private school  
8 for approved learning materials in accordance with the following  
9 guidelines:

10 (1) Learning materials support shall not be limited, in any way,  
11 based on a student's economic status.

12 (2) Learning materials support shall neither promote nor deter  
13 sectarian or religious activities of the private school.

14 (3) No approved private school may be required to participate in  
15 learning materials support provided by the state.

16 (4) Only students who attend state-approved private schools are  
17 eligible for learning materials support.

18 (5)(a) Only textbooks listed on the official adoption list of the  
19 state or local school district are eligible for learning materials  
20 support.

21 (b) Schools receiving learning materials support shall have the  
22 opportunity to submit annual requests of learning materials for  
23 adoption by the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
24 and/or local school district in which the private school is located.

25 (6) Learning materials eligible for support shall include, but not  
26 be limited to: Supplies, textbooks, workbooks, audio-visual aids, and  
27 technology made available, free of additional charge, for students in  
28 the state's public schools.

29 (7) Student learning materials designed for religious instruction  
30 shall not be eligible for reimbursement as part of learning materials  
31 support.

32 (8) No laws or rules may be added beyond those already in existence  
33 as of January 1, 1995, that have a direct or indirect impact on the  
34 autonomy of the private school as a result of the student's receipt of  
35 learning materials support.

36 (9) Annual per student learning material support shall not exceed  
37 the average per student expenditure for learning materials as reported

1 by all public school districts to the superintendent of public  
2 instruction.

3 (10) Learning materials support reimbursements shall be made to the  
4 school, in the name of the child, as reported by the participating  
5 approved private school.

6 (11) To assist the state, the office of the superintendent of  
7 public instruction may identify currently existing, nonsectarian,  
8 state-wide private school organizations to serve as the liaison with  
9 the state for eligible participating private schools.

10 (12) Learning materials support reimbursement may not be claimed  
11 for the same item for more than the life of the material or its  
12 original purchase price. The annual reimbursement amount for  
13 nonconsumable learning materials shall not exceed twenty percent of the  
14 original cost of the approved learning material.

15 (13) Student learning materials shall, at all times, be considered  
16 the property of the state of Washington.

17 (14) Funds shall come from the state's allocation for the providing  
18 of state-wide K-12 basic education.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall take effect September 1,  
20 1995.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If any provision of this act or its  
22 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
23 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
24 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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